



MARAD FACT SHEET

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy



America's Advocate for the Maritime Industry



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Strategic Objective: Assure that sufficient sealift capability and intermodal transportation infrastructure exists to support vital homeland and national security interests.

Vision: "A U.S. maritime workforce that furthers the economic and national security interests of the Nation."

Mission: To educate and supply a cadre of highly trained U.S. merchant mariners

The Maritime Administration oversees the operation of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. As one of the five federal service academies, Kings Point is an accredited 4-year institution and its graduates earn a Bachelor of Science degree and U.S. Coast Licenses.

BACKGROUND

With a mission of graduating professional officers dedicated to serving the economic and defense interests of the nation, students major in marine engineering and marine transportation curricula and receive a merchant marine officer's license upon graduation. Graduates are also commissioned as an officer in the reserves of the U.S. armed forces and have the option to pursue an active duty commission in any branch of the military. The majority of a student's education costs are borne by the federal government and in turn, the graduate has maritime and reserve commitments to the nation. The majority of prospective academy midshipmen are subject to Congressional nomination.

HISTORY**Merchant Marine Act of 1936**

The Merchant Marine Act of 1936, provided for establishment of Federal training for merchant marine officers. The U.S. Merchant Marine Cadet Corps was officially founded March 15, 1938 under the auspices of the U.S. Maritime Commission, chaired by Joseph P. Kennedy (father of President John F. Kennedy), a position taken over by Admiral Emory Scott Land.

Initially, training of cadets was given aboard government-subsidized ships under the direction of shore-based Port Inspector-Instructors. In February 1942, administration of the training program was turned over to the Coast Guard, but in July 1942 it was given to the War Shipping Administration. The need for a permanent shore facility became obvious quickly. After several years of temporary facilities, Congress appropriated funds in 1942 for the purchase of the former Chrysler estate for an Academy at Kings Point, Long Island, New York. The Merchant Marine Academy's campus was dedicated on September 30, 1943 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who said "the Academy serves the Merchant Marine as West Point serves the Army and Annapolis serves the Navy."

Requirements

Academy life is different from that of most other colleges. To insure that each entering candidate is able to meet the Academy's rigorous academic and physical demands, the Academy has both scholastic and physical requirements that must be met before an offer of admission to the Academy is made. Candidates must be at least 17 years of age, and must not have passed their 25th birthday, before 1 July of the year of admission to the Academy. Candidates should pursue studies in high school that will prepare them for the Academy's rigorous program.

The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy provides an individual with a four-year academic program leading to a bachelor of science degree, a license as a merchant marine officer (issued by the U.S. Coast Guard), and an appointment as a commissioned officer in a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces (including the Merchant Marine Reserve of the U.S. Navy). The curriculum is demanding, comprehensive and stimulating. It has been carefully designed to ensure that graduates are professionally competent, trained for leadership and responsibility, and well-rounded intellectually.

Midshipmen are required to complete a series of courses which comprise the core curriculum. These courses provide a nucleus of knowledge in key academic and professional subjects. In the second trimester of the fourth class year the major course of study begins, determining the type of merchant marine license one will receive. Midshipmen also spend approximately one year at sea training aboard commercial, U.S.-flag merchant marine vessels.

Academic Majors

The Department of Marine Transportation offers three majors: Marine Transportation, Maritime Operations and Technology, and Logistics and Intermodal Transportation. These majors all share a common nautical science and business core.

The mission of the Engineering Programs is to provide midshipmen with the education and training to design, build, operate, maintain and repair the engineering systems used on modern marine vessels and to prepare them for positions of increasing responsibility in the maritime and intermodal transportation industries. They offer majors in Marine Engineering, Marine Engineering Systems, and Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management.

For more information, please visit www.usmma.edu